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ment for the many wars carried on by them. The people are now called upon by imperious necessity to consider to what a tremendous crisis, our ruinous wars, and enormous expenditures are rapidly conducting us; to pause in the midst of our career before it is too late, and to try to avert the danger, while yet it may be in the power of rulers and people to prevent a general crash. Deep thoughtfulness, and not feasting, or illuminations, or the parade of religion, should characterize the present period!

As among the prominent transactions of the month, we can scarcely avoid mentioning the uproar which has taken place at Covent-garden theatre, for several successive nights, on its reopening, after having been destroyed last year by fire. The contest with the managers, is on account of a demand for an advance in the prices of admission, and for employing a noted Italian singer in preference to English performers. As a resistance to imposition and to the extravagant salary paid to the singer, we might applaud this opposition if we did not perceive a considerable portion of that illiberality against foreigners, for which the English nation is notorious, mixed up in it; and if we did not think that theatrical contests are of quite too trivial importance, and unworthy of engaging public attention in the midst of our present pressing difficulties. It is among the symptoms of a falling em-

pire, when the people neglect the serious consideration of their public affairs, to be engrossed with the concerns of mimic scenery. In the downfall of the Greek empire, in the 6th century, Constantinople and the empire were disturbed by the green and blue factions at the Hippodrome, the place of amusement of that day. Gibbon, recounting the commotions of these rival factions, pointedly remarks, "As long as the party was successful, its deluded followers appeared careless of private distress or public calamity. It was the license, without the freedom of democracy."

*We understand, that several objections to the political discussions which appeared in this Magazine, have from time to time been sent for insertion to the editors of the News-papers in this town, but they have declined entering into the controversy. Confiding in the omnipotence of truth over error, as friends to fair discussion, and desirous that the present crisis should be illustrated by the temperate examination of the passing events, in every point of view, we give notice, that we are willing to admit into our pages, remarks controverting the line of politics which we have adopted, provided they are written with decorum and moderation, and of such a length as not to interfere with that portion, which in our miscellaneous arrangement, can be spared to politics.*

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## PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

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### BRITISH.

#### *Duel between Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning.*

A Duel was fought on the morning of the 21st September between Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Canning. In consequence of a misunderstanding which has long subsisted between the parties, they met this morning, by appointment, at six o'clock, on Putney Common. Lord Yarmonth was the bearer of the challenge from Lord Castlereagh to Mr. Canning, and also the friend who attended his Lordship to the ground.

Charles Rose Ellis, esq. a West India Merchant, attended as the second

of Mr. Canning. On each firing a shot no harm was done; and Lord Castlereagh not acknowledging himself satisfied, the parties proceeded to fire again, without exchanging a word. Lord Castlereagh's second shot passed through Mr. Canning's thigh without coming in contact with the bone, and thus the affair finished. Lord Castlereagh and his friend drove immediately to White's, in St. James's-street, and there breakfasted. Mr. Canning was immediately conveyed home, and did not experience much pain. After his wound was dressed, he wrote a few lines to a relation in the city, to the following effect:—

"After the affair of this morning, you will be anxious to learn how I am, I therefore inform you, that I have received a slight wound in the thigh. My Surgeon informs me, that it will not require more than three weeks' confinement to set me on my legs again.

There are various reports in circulation as to the immediate cause of the duel, but none can be fully relied upon. All that is known is, that the parties have not been on friendly terms for some months. By some it is said, that Mr. Canning was desirous of Lord Chatham's being brought to a Court Martial, and that Lord Castlereagh opposed it."

#### MR. ELLISTON AND MISS COLSON.

On the morning of September 5th, about two o'clock, Collingbourn, one of the officers of Union Hall, having received information that some persons had been conveyed in a wounded state into a house in Belvidere-place, St. George's-fields, and that the report of two pistols had been heard, immediately went to the house. On demanding admission he was refused, and it was not till he attempted to force open the door that it was opened. The officer proceeded directly up stairs, and in the front room of the upper story he discovered a young gentleman in bed, apparently in great agony, in consequence of a wound which he had received in the side; in the back room on the same floor was a young lady in bed, also in a wounded state. Collingbourn immediately sent for Mr. Wagstaff, a Surgeon, who on examining the wounded persons, said that the gentleman had received a wound on the right side of his body, with a pistol ball, and that the ball had entered just beneath the lower rib; the lady had also received a wound on the side apparently with a pistol shot. It appeared that the gentleman had paid his addresses to the young lady for about three months; they had been out together spending the evening, and returned from the city about twelve o'clock to the house of the father of the gentlemen, in Belvidere-place, in a hackney coach. Just before the coach reached his father's door, he discharged one pistol at his companion and another at himself; fortunately, the young lady's wounds are not considered dangerous; his own are of a more serious nature. Fearing that he had not completed his purpose, he contrived to swallow a quantity of opium soon after he was taken out of the coach. It is supposed that jealousy was the cause of this rash act. Both the parties are under twenty

years of age. Goff, another of the police-officers, is with the parties, till further information can be obtained relative to this melancholy transaction.

UNION-HALL.—We have heard that the young gentleman who attempted to shoot himself and a young Lady who was with him, in a hackney-coach, in Belvidere-place, is the son of Mr. Elliston, of Belvidere-place, and the young Lady a Miss Colson, a respectable young woman, whose friends reside in the Borough. Several persons who had some knowledge of the transaction were examined yesterday before the Magistrates of Union-hall.

Hulston, driver of the hackney-coach, No. 278, stated that he was called off the stand in the Minories on Monday night, about eleven o'clock, by a gentleman and two ladies; he was desired to drive to Crooked lane, where the ladies got out; one of them however returned and again got into the coach with the gentleman, who desired him to drive to Belvidere-place, St. George's-fields;—when he arrived within two or three doors of the house where he was ordered to set them down, he was alarmed by the report of a pistol in the coach, and immediately after by a second, and heard the gentleman exclaim "Oh, can you forgive me in your dying moments?" the lady answered "Yes, yes, yes;" he stopped his horses, and getting of his box, ran to look for a watchman; on his return he found his coach empty and a person informed him that the lady and gentleman were in the house, and that no harm was done; in searching amongst the straw of his coach, afterwards, he found a pair of pistol-bags.

Mr. John Taylor lives at No. 42, Belvidere-place, was sitting with his family, a little before twelve o'clock, on Monday evening, when he was alarmed by the report of two pistols; he ran out to see what was the matter, when he perceived a coach standing near the door, without any person on the box; he went up to the coach and opened the door, when by the light of a candle he perceived Mr. Elliston and Miss Colson, the latter apparently fainting; he shut too the door again, and going to the horses, drew the coach close up to Mr. Elliston's door; the family were by this time alarmed, and he assisted in getting them out of the coach; Mr. Elliston was begging to be forgiven, saying he had no intention to hurt her; she answered—Yes, yes; she forgave him. Mr. Taylor went for the surgeon, and on his return, on search-

ing the coach, he found a pistol bullet in the back part of the seat, he saw no appearance of blood, but saw the mark of the powder on the woman's dress.

Mr. Wagstaff a surgeon, said he was called on Monday night about twelve o'clock, to go to Mr. Elliston's house to examine two persons who were supposed to be seriously hurt; he went and found Miss Colson sitting on the bed partly undressed; on examining her person, he found she had received a contused wound on the right side, which was very much inflamed and swelled; her cloaths were perforated in several places, and from their appearance, and from the appearance of the wound, he had no doubt it was inflicted with some sort of fire arms. After having dressed her wound, he was desired to attend Mr. Elliston; he found him lying on a bed; he had a wound inflicted by a ball in his right side; the ball had struck upon his ribs just below the breast, and gone off slanting, without having penetrated the abdomen. The wound was very much inflamed and swelled, but the witness did not apprehend any immediate danger; from some expressions which fell from Mr. Elliston, however, the witness was fearful he had taken something of a poisonous nature; and after being repeatedly pressed on the subject, he acknowledged that finding the ball had not taken effect, he had contrived to swallow a quantity of opium. Mr. Wagstaff had questioned Miss Colson respecting the firing of the pistol, she said that Mr. Elliston, had desired her to look out at the window to see if the coachman was not gone past the house; whilst her head was out at the window, she heard the report of the pistol, but did not at first know that she was wounded; nor was she much alarmed, till she heard the second report, and saw the flash in the coach, when she screamed out. The witness did not consider either of the parties to be in immediate danger. The pistols were delivered to Mr. Wagstaff on Tuesday morning, by a younger brother of Mr. Elliston.

It is said that a plan is in agitation with some merchants at Liverpool to revive the nefarious slave trade under foreign colours, but that the friends to the abolition fully awake to the interests of humanity are taking measures to prevent the evasion of the law, which so highly to their credit was the last act of the Grenville administration. We have also another instance of the vigilance of the Abolitionists.

A short time ago, Mr. Roscoe, of Liverpool, received an anonymous letter, informing him that six black slaves had been thrown into prison by a Portuguese Captain, upon alleged actions of debt; but in reality because he found that they were free on their arrival in England, and he hoped by this expedient to detain them until his vessel should be ready to sail. Having verified the fact, Mr. Roscoe sent a person to bail all the actions. An order was accordingly issued for the discharge of the prisoners, when it was discovered that the Portuguese Captain had mustered about 100 of his countrymen to seize the blacks by force on their exit from prison. Application was instantly made to the Magistrates, who took the Captain into custody, bound him to his good behaviour, and restored the poor blacks to the enjoyment of their newly acquired liberty.

At the anniversary of the Suffolk Humane Society, the life boat was launched, and every effort to sink her was attempted, but in vain; when she was filled with water she gave additional proof of her stiffness and security. Captain Manby's experiments were repeated, for securing a communication between the shore and a stranded Vessel, with the greatest success. A shot was fired, with the rope attached to it 190 yards. The wind on the side, the shot 24lb. with 8oz. of powder; another of the same weight in the face of the wind 180 yards distance with 10oz. of powder.

The following well authenticated narrative was read before the society:

Dec. 16th, 1808. Edward Ellis and three other men were in a small boat searching for anchors, off Lowestoft. They saw a wreck on the home sand. They immediately rowed to her and found her lying on her side, with the sea breaking over her; nine persons were on the wreck, who had lashed themselves on her side; among these were two women, and a Child about seven months old, who were nearly perished with cold and wet. They were all brought to the shore by the assistance of the boat in which Ellis was, and another which came to their help. But the conduct which merits peculiar attention was that of Ellis. The boat could not go close to the wreck; the persons were therefore obliged to be dragged through the water from the wreck. The child was pulled through the water quite naked. As soon as it was in the boat, though it discovered no symptoms of life, Edward Ellis stripped off his own

flannel waistcoat and a great coat and put them upon the Child, and with this covering carried her to shore. As soon as they were landed James Farrier, Jun. carried the child, apparently dead, to the house of Martha Longstaff, widow, who resides on the beach of Lowestoft. Having heard that warmth and rubbing were the most effectual methods of restoring those who seemed to be drowned, Martha Longstaff immediately stripped herself and placed the child close to her own body, in a warm bed. In three quarters of an hour, the child breathed, and in a short time after was restored to her friends. She is the daughter of William and Anne Stephens of Bridlington, Yorkshire. The Vessel was completely lost.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE, LONDON.

The pit of the new theatre is very spacious, and the two galleries are comparatively small. The lower contains from 800 to 900 persons, the upper from 200 to 250. The upper gallery is divided into five compartments, and may be considered a tier of five boxes, with a separate door at the back to each; these doors open into a spacious lobby, one side of which is the back of the gallery, and the other the exterior wall of the theatre, with the windows into the street. The lobby to the middle gallery beneath is similarly situated. One great advantage attends this construction; in summer, the doors of the galleries, and the lobby windows, being left open, the audience in those parts cannot be oppressed by the heat, as in the former theatre. Under the gallery is a row of private boxes, constituting the third tier.—They consist of 26 in number, with a private room behind each. The access to these boxes is by a beautiful staircase, exclusively appropriated to them, and not connected with any other part of the house, with also a lobby, exclusively, spacious and magnificent in the extreme. The carpeting was laid down in these boxes on Saturday; but the furniture, of each, and also of the adjoining rooms, will be according to the taste of the several occupants, among whom are some of the Royal Dukes, and the leading persons of rank and fashion in the country. The lower boxes appear to be upon the same plan of those in the old house. There is

an additional seat; each box will thus hold 12 persons, being three more than in the old house. The grand stair-case, from Bow-street, to the boxes, is most superb, and in extent greatly exceeds that of the opera-house.

The front of the stage is surmounted with the royal arms, and the pillars at the sides are plain and elegant.—The fronts of the boxes are painted of a cream colour, with Greek ornaments in gold, upon a pink ground, and gold mouldings. The boxes are supported by gold fluted columns.—There are three rows of seats in each box, with coverings of light blue.—The three circles of boxes are to be lighted by chandeliers, elegantly mounted.

The seats in the pit are each placed a little above the other, so as to raise the eye of each person completely above the head of the person in front of him. Each seat is 25 inches in depth. They are covered with light blue cloth, edged with scarlet.

The entrance hall, from Bow-street, is of stone, 40 feet square, from whence a grand stone stair-case, 18 feet wide, ascends to the boxes. There are stone landings on each side, ornamented by red porphyry columns, with white marble capitals and bases. The walls are white veined marble. Beyond this, an anti-room, is decorated by red porphyry pilasters, with gold capitals and bases. Opposite the entrance of this room, at the farther end, is a statue of Shakspeare, by Rossi, seven feet high, placed on a pedestal of yellow Sienna marble. The corridors, which lead from the anti-room, and surround the boxes, are nine feet wide, and paved with stone.

The saloon adjoining is 60 feet long. It is ornamented by red veined marble pilasters at each side, and paintings in chiara oscuro at each side. Sofas are to be placed in it of scarlet, bordered with black velvet.

The entrance from the piazza is by a double flight of stone steps, lighted by antique lamps, on tripods of bronze.

In the corridors and saloon the prevailing colour is green.

By means of a pipe brought down

to a closet in the anti-room, and communicating with a reservoir at the top of the theatre, a great quantity of water may be obtained in a short time, in the event of fire. In another part of the theatre a pipe is also placed communicating with a reservoir at the bottom of the edifice. The party walls are five feet thick.

There is not a point of the house, before the curtain, that does not command a complete view of the stage; nor a point in which a word, distinctly spoken on the stage, is not perfectly audible to the remotest extremity. The stage is also adapted in a peculiar degree, for the display of scenic procession, having extraordinary depth in the rear, as also large spaces at the sides to an extent greatly exceeding those of the late theatre.

The price of the boxes is raised from 6s. to 7s. British.—the pit from 3s. 6d. to 4s.—galleries are as formerly.

The rise of the prices has occasioned a very determined resistance from the public, who express their disapprobation by such a combination of infernal noises, from tin trumpets, bugle-horns, catcalls, whistles, &c. &c. during the time of performance of the plays, that as yet the actors have only been able to exhibit in dumb show. The Bow-street officers have been brought in to take up some of these noise manufacturers, and having been guilty of more roughness in the business, than was esteemed legal, it is thought they will be punished for *rigour exerted beyond the law*, a privilege luckily as yet confined to a favoured few. In fact the only real riots committed as yet on the occasion have been by these officers and their adherents.

#### FATAL CATASTROPHE.

"*Raleigh, North Carolina, America.*—  
"A young man in that county, of

the name of Wm. Parker, had for two or three years paid his addresses to a Miss Dolly Griffin, and the marriage of the parties was expected; recently, however, Miss G. had discarded him. On the 5th, they, with some other company, dined at Mrs. Harris's, where Parker behaved towards Miss G. with some rudeness. His conduct, and some expressions which fell from him, excited her suspicions that he intended her some serious mischief; and she invited two of her female friends to accompany her home. When they had nearly reached her mother's, Parker came out suddenly from an angle of the fence, and presenting a gun at Miss G. shot her through the arm, and lodged the contents in her side. She fell instantly; and the horses rode by the other young ladies being frightened, they were also thrown. Parker then began very deliberately to reload his gun; the young ladies, bereft by their fears of the power either of flight or resistance, entreated him not to kill them. He told them he had no such intention; that he was then loading for himself, and asked one of them for a corner of her shawl for wadding, which he tore off. When he had finished loading, he placed the muzzle to his breast, and sprung the trigger with his foot; it missed fire; he then pecked the flint, and on the second attempt the load entered his breast; he tottered to the fence, against which he leaned in much agony, and desired the young ladies to pray for him. He then walked towards the dying Miss Griffin, and fell beside her. Both expired in a few minutes. Miss Griffin was a young woman of merit, and the only child of a widowed mother, who heard the cries and firing, and came to the place just in time to see her daughter expire. Parker was notorious for possessing a violent and ungovernable temper."

### DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

#### IRISH.

##### ULSTER.

On Wednesday last, a meeting of the inhabitants of Belfast was held in the Exchange-Rooms, pursuant to public notice, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best manner of

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celebrating the 25th of October, in honour of his Majesty's entering into the 50th year of his reign. Mr. May, the sovereign, presided on the occasion; and after some preliminary conversation, it was moved, that the inhabitants

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